

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043243
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043243

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TAGS: MILI, US, SN, RP

SUBJECT: A-4 TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

REFS: A) SINGAPORE 0725, B) STATE 34688, C) STATE
301149, 12/17/78

REGRET STATE COMMUNICATIONS WERE UNABLE TO REPEAT REF. C
AS PLANNED REF. B. TEXT OF DECEMBER 1977 BRIEFING PAPER,
UPDATED BY REF. B, FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

1976 NEGOTIATIONS

THE 1976 NEGOTIATING ROUND ENDED AFTER:

-- THE GOP HAD REJECTED OUR OFFER OF A VIVE-YEMILCTARY
SATION PACKAGE CONSISTING OF DOLS 500 MILLION MILITARY
AND DOLS 500 MILLION ECONOMIC AID.

-- THE GOP HAD MADE VARIOUS REQUESTS FOR EMBELLISHMENT ON
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PAGE 02 STATE 043243

THE 1951 MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WHICH WE WERE UNABLE TO
SATISFY FULLY;

SOLVED BASE-RELATED ISSUES REFLECTING PHILIPPINE DEMANDS
OF VARYING DEGREES OF UNACCEPTABILITY TO US.

CURRENT ISSUES

ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE MET WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS IN SEPTEMBER 1977 IN RESPONSE TO A GOP DEMARCHE FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING AN EIGHT-MONTH PAUSE WHILE BOTH SIDES EXAMINED THEIR POSITIONS. THESE PRODUCTIVE TALKS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING KEY ISSUES, WHICH WERE FURTHER DISCUSSED DURING OCTOBER TALKS IN NEW YORK BETWEEN MRS. MARCOS AND THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY VANCE.

COMPENSATION: THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE FOR THE U.S. HAS NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED DIRECTLY IN THE TALKS. MARCOS, WHO HAS BEEN ADVISED OF STRINGENT US LIMITATIONS, IS NOT NOW INSISTING ON "RENT" FOR THE BASES BUT INSTEAD HAS FOCUSED ON A JOINT REVIEW OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXTERNAL DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES. WE ARE AWAITING A PHILIPPINE LISTING OF THEIR REQUIREMENTS BY PRIORITY. OUR POSITION WILL BE BASED ON: USG ANALYSIS OF THE LIST IN THE LIGHT OF US ARMS TRANSFER POLICY; A JOINT REVIEW WITH THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC SITUATION; EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS; EXAMINATION OF ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES.

MUTUAL DEFENSE: USG OFFICIALS HAVE EMPHASIZED IN THEIR RECENT TALKS WITH MARCOS AND HIS ADVISORS THAT THE BEST ASSURANCE OF PHILIPPINE SECURITY IS THE BROAD RELATIONSHIP
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 043243

WITH THE US, REINFORCED BY OUR GLOBAL STRENGTH, OUR CONTINUING PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC REGION AND OUR BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES. CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL ADVISOR BOTH EXPLAINED THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION TO OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE APPARENT SATISFACTION OF THE GOP. WE ARE NOW EXAMINING MEANS OF IMPROVING DEFENSE COORDINATION WITH THE PHILIPPINES UNDER THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.

PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE BASES: PRESIDENT CARTER HAS REAFFIRMED THE US UNDERSTANDING THAT THE BASES ARE PHILIPPINE BASES UNDER THEIR SOVEREIGNTY. THE US AND THE GOP HAVE NOW IDENTIFIED TWO BROAD AREAS OF BASE-RELATED ISSUES AS THE MOST IMPORTANT IN REACHING AGREEMENT:

-- CRIMINAL JURISDICTION: WE ACKNOWLEDGE PHILIPPINE JURISDICTION OVER ALL OFFENSES INVOLVING US PERSONNEL

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OFFICIAL DUTY AND THOSE SOLELY INVOLVING U.S. PERSONNEL OF OR PROPERTY. OFFICIAL DUTY CASES GIVE RISE TO HIGHLY

CONTENTIOUS IRRITANTS IN OUR BASE RELATIONSHIP. FOLLOWING THE HOLBROOKE VISIT, WE SET UP A TASK FORCE TO DEAL WITH THE IRRITANTS. AMBASSADOR NEWSOM PRESENTED A USG PROPOSAL WHICH, CONSISTENT WITH WORLDWIDE PRACTICE, LEAVES ULTIMATE DETERMINATION OF OFFICIAL DUTY WITH THE US, BUT CALLS FOR EXTENSIVE GOP PARTICIPATION AT ALL STAGES. WE AWAIT A RESPONSE.

-- PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDER: WE HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ASSIGNMENT OF A PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDER AT EACH BASE. THE US PRESENTED A DETAILED PROPOSAL CONCERNING HIS ROLE WITH RELATION TO US FACILITIES ON THE BASE. WE PRESENTED MAPS DELIMITING THESE FACILITIES, WHICH WOULD ENTAIL TURNING EXTENSIVE UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE BASES OVER TO PHILIP-
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PAGE 04 STATE 043243

PINE ADMINISTRATION, AND WE PROPOSED THAT THE PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDER WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PERIMETER SECURITY. WE AWAIT A RESPONSE.

NEXT STEPS

PRESIDENT MARCOS SEEKS AN AGREEMENT FAIRLY EARLY IN 1978. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ABRAMOWITZ, NSC STAFF REPRESENTATIVE ARMACOST, AND CINCPAC ADMIRAL WEISNER WILL JOIN AMBASSADOR NEWSOM TO MEET WITH MARCOS JANUARY 9 IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH PHILIPPINE RESPONSES ON THE ABOVE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY DEFENSE COORDINATION. VANCE

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